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Attn: 8(e) Coordinator

Dear Sir or Madam:

The International Isocyanate Institute Inc. (III) is currently sponsoring a study on Diphenylmethane-4,4'-Diisocyanate (MDI) - Topical Sensitization in Guinea Pigs - III Project: E-AB-82. This study is being conducted at ICI Central Toxicology Laboratory, Alderley Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 4TJ, United Kingdom.

Details of the Study:

Guinea pigs (n=8) were exposed topically to a single 400 microliter application of various concentrations (10%, 30% and 100%) of MDI on the scapular region. Control animals received an equal volume of corn oil alone. Application sites were occluded for 6 hours and the patch then removed.

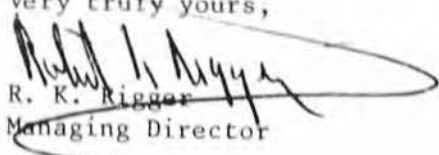
Guinea pigs were challenged subsequently by inhalation exposure to atmospheres containing between 25 and 30 mg/cubic meter MDI. Respiratory hypersensitivity was measured as a function of challenge-induced changes in respiratory rate.

No responses were observed in the control group. In guinea pigs treated previously with MDI positive responses were recorded (1/8, 2/8 and 7/8 animals sensitized with 10%, 30% and 100% MDI respectively, exhibited significant changes in respiratory rate following challenge).

These data indicate that respiratory hypersensitivity in guinea pigs may result from dermal exposure to MDI.

These findings will be communicated to our member companies. A copy of the final report will be forwarded to the 8(e) Coordinator as well as the 8(d) office when received from the laboratory.

Very truly yours,


R. K. Rigger
Managing Director

RKR/sha

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